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U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

as of

APRIL 1, 1956

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE and OREGON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

S U M M A R Y

For details
see page:

- 1-2 Water Supply Outlook: Good to abundant water supplies are forecast for the entire area. Near-record snow-cover on Applegate and Illinois Rivers will provide volume flows similar to 1952 when many stream records were broken.
- 3 Streamflow Forecasts: Forecasted volumes for the April-September period vary from 122 to 190 percent of average. The Rogue at Raygold is forecast to discharge 128 percent of average. This flow will be 8th highest since records began in 1906. Forecasted inflow to Hyatt, Fourmile, and Fish Lake reservoirs is expected to be nearly one-half above average. Flow of the Applegate at Copper for the irrigation season is expected to be 190 percent of average.
- 3 Reservoir Storage: Stored water in the four main reservoirs is about 5 percent above average representing a nice recovery from the unusually dry water situation of last year.
- 4 Snow-Cover: Water content of snow varies from 136 percent average on the Upper Rogue area to 223 percent average on the Illinois watershed. New snow-records were established at Billie Creek and Fourmile Lake.
- 4 Soil-Moisture: All soils in mountain watersheds are extremely wet and will cause snow-melt or rain-water to enter the streams rapidly. Valley soils could use one-half inch of moisture now.

Current Streamflow: Winter streamflow has been much above average with two separate flood periods. Total discharge of the Rogue at Raygold has been 171 percent average in the period October through March.



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
For April-September, 1956^a

Source of Water	Acreage Irrigated	Outlook
Althouse Creek	250	Water supplies much above average. Snow-cover is about double the average.
Ashland Creek	302	Adequate water for all usual uses. Snow-cover is well above last year
Applegate River (Big)	6,687	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is 183 percent of average. Flow of river will be 190 percent average. This flow is only slightly less than in 1952.
Applegate River (Little)	644	Adequate water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is well above last year.
Bear Creek	375	Adequate water for all usual irrigation.
Butte Creek (Big)	5,222	Eagle Point Irrigation District will have ample supplies from this stream. Snow- cover is much above last year and all watershed soils are extremely wet.
Elk Creek	136	Adequate water for all usual irrigation.
Evans Creek	800	Adequate water for all usual irrigation.
Fourmile and Fishlake Reservoirs	13,183	Water supplies for Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation Districts are expected to be ample with watershed soils extremely wet and a snow-cover much above that of last year.
Grave Creek	125	Adequate water for all usual irrigation.
Hyatt and Emigrant Reservoirs	10,317	Talent Irrigation District is expected to have adequate water supplies this year. Snow-cover is much greater than last year.

a - Assuming normal meteorological conditions during the
April - September period.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK (Contd.)

Source of Water	Acreage Irrigated	Outlook
Illinois River	400	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is about double the average.
Illinois River, East Fork	900	Abundant water supplies. Snow-cover is about double the average.
Illinois River, West Fork	200	Adequate for all usual irrigation.
Jump-off Joe Creek	210	Adequate for all usual irrigation.
Neil Creek	1,178	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is much above last year. Late summer flow should be well sustained.
Red Blanket Creek	313	Ample water for all usual irrigation.
Rough and Ready Creek	200	Adequate for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover has been well above average.
Rogue River	14,088	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is much above last year. Flow of Rogue is set at 128 percent average. Grants Pass Irrigation District can expect low flow to hold well above critical discharge point.
Slate Creek	200	Adequate water for all usual irrigation.
Sucker Creek	1,042	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is nearly double the average.
Thompson Creek	861	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is about double that of last year.
Wagner Creek	445	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is about double that of last year.
Williams Creek	720	Ample water for all usual irrigation. Snow-cover is about double that of last year.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS ^a
as of April 1, 1956

Gaging Station		Seasonal Streamflow in 1000 a.f. 1956		
No.	Name	Forecast 1956	Forecast Period	15-Yr. as % of
				Avg. 1938-52 Avg.
7294	Applegate R., nr. Copper	220.0	Apr-Sept.	116.0 ^b 190
8321	Fourmile Lake net Inflow*	10.4	Apr-Sept.	7.0 149
8320	Hyatt Res. net Inflow*	8.8	Apr-Sept.	6.0 147
712	Illinois R., nr. Kerby	315.0	Apr-Sept.	181.2 174
7230	L. Butte Cr., N.Fk., bel. Fish Lk.*	22.0	Apr-Sept.	14.9 148
722	Rogue R., abv. Prospect*	400.0	Apr-Sept.	316.5 126
	Rogue R., abv. Prospect*	330.0	Apr-July	265.1 126
7217	Rogue R., M. Fk., nr. Prospect*	91.0	Apr-Sept.	74.3 122
	Rogue R., M. Fk., nr. Prospect*	72.0	Apr-July	58.7 122
7282	Rogue R., S. Fk., nr. Prospect*	102.0	Apr-Sept.	76.1 134
	Rogue R., S. Fk., nr. Prospect*	86.0	Apr-July	65.1 132
7277	Rogue R., below South Fork	835.0	Apr-Sept.	680.8 123
	Rogue R., below South Fork	690.0	Apr-July	553.0 125
724	Rogue R., at Raygold nr. Central	1160.0	Apr-Sept.	905.6 128
	Rogue R., at Raygold nr. Central	970.0	Apr-July	760.7 128
7292	Rogue R., at Grants Pass	1100.0	Apr-Sept.	852.8 ^b 129

* Corrected to natural flow

^b 1938-39 excepted

RESERVOIR STORAGE

Reservoir	Usable Capacity 1000 a.f.	Thousand a.f. in storage about April 1, 1956				1956 as % of 15-Yr. Avg.
		1956	1955	1954	15-Yr. Avg. 1938-52	
Emigrant Gap	8.3	7.2	3.0	8.3	8.0	90
Fish Lake	7.8	5.1	5.6	7.0	5.0	102
Fourmile Lake	16.1	9.0	9.9	15.1	7.5	120
Hyatt Prairie	16.1	7.2	10.3	14.5	6.7	107
Total						
(4 Reservoirs)	48.3	28.5	28.8	44.9	27.2	105

SNOW COVER
As of April 1, 1956

Snow Course		1956		Water Content (in)			1956 as	
No.	Name	Elev.	Snow Depth (in)	Water Content (in)	1955	1954	15 yr. Avg. 1938-52	% of 15-yr. Avg.
--- below 4000' ---								
23G1	Goolaway Gap	3050	18	8.5	0.0	--	1.1**	773
23G2	Goolaway Mtn.	3780	53	24.5	6.5	--	3.7**	662
22G2	Silver Burn	3720	48	19.8	12.4	14.3	11.1	178
22G9	So. Fk. Canal	3500	3	.6	0.0	0.0	1.6	38
Average *			—	13.4	4.7	7.2	4.4	30
---- 4000' to 6000' ----								
23G4	Althouse	4400	45	17.7	2.9	5.1	6.8	260
22G13	Billie Cr. Div.	5300	87	39.1	23.9	20.3	23.4	167
22F18	Diamond Lake	5315	86	34.7	23.2	28.0	23.0	151
22G14	Fish Lake	4865	53	23.2	12.3	12.4	11.7**	198
22G17	Hobart Lake	5010	20	8.1	0.5	8.9	6.3**	129
22G16	Hyatt Pr. Res.	4900	38	15.0	3.6	12.4	9.0	167
23G6	Oregon Caves	4000	Not measured		0.0	--	--	--
23G5	Page Mountain	4045	54	19.6	2.6	--	--	--
22G20	Siskiyou Summit	4630	20	8.9	T	--	4.0	222
22G1	Whaleback	5140	126	52.5	32.3	39.9	35.1**	150
Average *			—	24.9	12.3	18.1	14.9	167
--- Above 6000' ---								
22G6	Annie Spring	6018	169	62.9	32.3	47.8	47.4	133
22G21	Big Red Mtn.	6500	Report delayed		21.4	42.6	28.6	--
22G12	Fourmile Lake	6000	98	41.0	25.2	25.6	--	--
23G3	Grayback Pk.	6000	Report delayed		25.7	36.4	25.4	--
22G22	Little Red Mtn.	6500	Report delayed		15.9	32.9	22.3	--
22G5	Park Hdqs.	6450	195	78.4	41.0	63.6	64.8**	121
22H1	Scragg Mtn.	6200	Report delayed		19.1	37.6	29.3**	--
22G10	Seven Lakes #1	6800	150	70.4 ^a	53.0	65.9	51.2	138
22G11	Seven Lakes #2	6200	128	59.1 ^a	40.9	45.1	40.8**	145
22G18	Wagner Butte	6900	61	23.9	12.3	23.4	16.9	141
Average *			—	58.9	35.9	49.2	44.2	133
Average*(17 snow courses)			—	32.2	17.5	25.8	21.1	153

^aTelegraphic **Avg. for less than 15 yrs. of record in 1938-52 period but not less than 5 yrs.

*Only reporting snow courses with a 15 year average used.

SOIL MOISTURE

Soils in:	Fall Status	Current status as of April 1, 1956
Lower Valleys	{	At summer's end, last year, all mountain and valley soils were extremely dry. An unusual combination of heavy precipitation and early winter snow-melt has completely "recharged" all watersheds so that all soils are now extremely wet.
Upper Valleys		
Mountains		